

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, CU, RP

SUBJECT: GOP TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN STATEMENT ISSUED IN HAVANA AT END OF
MRS. MARCOS' 3 DAY VISIT TO CUBA, CUBA AND GOP EXPRESS
VIEW RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES SEVERED IN 1961
" NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE" AND AGREE TO EXCHANGE AMBASSA-
DORS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". PRESS BILLING MRS. MARCOS'
CUBAN VISIT AS ANOTHER PERSONAL TRIUMPH BUT MEDIA
COVERAGE GIVEN DURING TRIP NOT AS FULSOME AS FOR HER
OTHER FOREIGN VENTURES. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS INITIAL
DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING TIMING OF TRIP AS WELL AS UNCER-
TAINTY ABOUT ROLE CASTRO WOULD PLAY IN VISIT. MRS. MARCOS'
PARTY DISCUSSED SUGAR WITH CUBANS BUT HOW CONCLUSIVE
THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE IS NOT KNOWN. END SUMMARY.

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1. AUGUST 28 NATIONAL MEDIA PRESS CENTER RELEASED TEXT OF "STATEMENT ON THE VISIT TO CUBA OF MRS. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS", SIGNED BY MRS. MARCOS AND PM CASTRO, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO PRESS DURING MRS. MARCOS'S DINNER FOR CUBAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PREMIER CASTRO. HIGHLIGHTS OF STATEMENT ARE: A) DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE RESUMED, B) TWO COUNTRIES WILL EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, C) CUBA AND PHILIPPINES WILL STRIVE TO SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS THEY SHARE AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND D) MRS. MARCOS AND CUBAN LEADERSHIP DISCUSSED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH CONCERN THEIR PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR THOSE RELATED WITH SUGAR. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, STATEMENT LISTS CUBAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM MRS. MARCOS HAD DISCUSSIONS AND DETAILS HER ITINERARY IN HAVANA AND ITS ENVIRONS.

3. LOCAL PRESS NOTES MRS. MARCOS' VISIT BEGAN PROPOERLY, BUT WITHOUT CEREMONY. DURING FIRST HOURS HOST ACTED "CORRECTLY" BUT WITHOUT VISIBLE WARMTH. THEN, FIDEL CASTRO, "WHOSE PRESENCE COULD NOT BE ASSURED", SHOWED UP PROMTLY AT STATE DINNER FOR MRS. MARCOS. AFTER CASTRO'S APPEARANCE, CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER GRAMMA GAVE MRS. MARCOS' VISIT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT WITH PHOTOS. CASTRO REAPPEARED AT LUNCHEON AT HIGH SCHOOL IN TOWN ABOUT 50 MILES FROM HAVANA, SAT NEXT TO MRS. MARCOS AND RODE WITH HER CAR BACK TO HAVANA. CASTRO THEN ATTENDED HER DINNER FOR CUBAN OFFICIALS "IN HIS GALA UNIFORM AND (SIC) HIS USUAL CIGAR".

4. COMMENT: DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN PRESS AUGUST 21, PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS ASKED ABOUT HIS SPOUSE'S VISIT TO CUBA. HE SAID HE EXPECTED IT WOULD RESULT IN RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BUT THIS COULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED YET SINCE THEN MRS. MARCOS WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO ANNOUNCE DURING HER STAY IN HAVANA. PRESIDENT'S CAUTION NO DOUBT BASED ON DIFFICULTIES HE ENCOUNTERED IN ARRANGING TIMING OF HER VISIT TO CUBA AND UNCERTAINTY SHE WOULD MEET WITH CASTRO. INITIAL PRESS REPORTS OF HER VISIT EMPHASIZED HER MEETIN WITH PRESIDENT DORTICOS, GREETING BY VICE PREMIER, BUT SAID NOTHING ABOUT CASTRO. APPARENTLY, PM ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CAPTIVATED BY MRS. MARCOS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"INEFFABLE CHARM" AND DECIDED TO PUT HIS PERSONAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ON VISIT.

5. DESPITE STATEMENT'S MENTION OF NEED FOR EARLY EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, WE SUSPECT CUBANS MIGHT BE TEMPTED FOLLOW EASTERN EUROPEAN EXAMPLE AND NOT SEND RESIDENT AMBASSADOR HERE UNTIL SOVIET COUNTERPART IN PLACE. WHETHER MRS. MARCOS' DISCUSSIONS ON SUGAR FORESHADOW REAL COOPERATION

BETWEEN CUBA AND PHILIPPINES IN THIS AREA REMAINS TO
BE SEEN, INCLUSION OF AMBASSADOR BENEDICTO IN HER
PARTY PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES. WE
SHALL BE MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF HER OFFICIAL PARTY ON
THEIR RETURN AND REPORT SEPTTEL.
SULLIVAN

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